

Tiger Team develops draft Net Zero Implementation Plan
Amy Ausley
AFCEC Public Affairs

A recent policy memo establishes the Air Force policy and end-state goals to achieve a “Net Zero” posture for installation energy, water, and waste. The memo also calls for the formation of a Tiger Team to build a strategic, economically-sensitive Air Force-wide approach to these end-state goals.

The memo states, “By continuously improving energy and environmental management practices to be more effective and efficient, and carefully considering return on investment, the Air Force will ensure sustainable management of the resources that we need to adequately fly, fight and win into the future.”

It basically describes a goal but doesn’t give details on how to get there. That’s where the Tiger Team comes into action. A Tiger Team is a group of experts assigned to investigate and/or solve technical or systemic problems. This Tiger Team is tasked with developing a plan recommending specific objectives, targets and appropriate baselines and measurement criteria. Critical to this effort is looking at the way we currently measure energy, water, and waste and determining how to use those measurement tools to find Net Zero credits.

According to the memo, this does not constitute an unfunded mandate. Instead, it’s an effort to bring an element of synergy to existing programs. The Air Force already has programs in place to reduce energy, waste and water usage. This plan is a way to look at how the components of the three separate areas have an effect on one another and how they can be coordinated and improved to help with the goal.

The implementation plan give specific details on how information will be gathered and measurements calculated to determine the net use/production of energy, water, and waste. The next step is to look at how various components and activities involved in these issues work together and to develop cost-effective projects to move towards the goals.

Specific requirements in the memo state any projects to achieve the goals and expectations of the net zero policy should have a primary payback targeted within five years and secondary consideration targeted for a ten-year payback. The Tiger Team is encouraged to leverage public-private partnerships and regional solutions wherever possible.

The Tiger Team submitted a draft implementation plan in September 2012 which has been sent out for coordination to various Air Force organizations. SAF/IEE and AF/A7C co-chair the Team.